

Violence in Assam

1563. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of blasts taken place in Kokrajhar and other areas of Assam during the current year; and

(b) the measures taken to curtail the violence in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) According to available information, one incident of bomb blast has been reported in Kokrajhar district during the current year. Three incidents of bomb blasts have been reported from other areas of Assam during the current year.

(b) Army and Central Para-Military forces have been deployed on the request of the State Government to keep the situation under control. The RPF and the State Government have been asked to take special measures for protecting Railway property, Railway Stations etc. A unified Headquarters has been formed to synergise and coordinate the counter insurgency operations being conducted by Army, CPOs and State Armed Police. Regular review meetings are being conducted on the law and order situation in the State both at State and Central Government levels.

[Translation]

Wheat for Open Sale

1564. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has announced the prices of wheat for sale in the open market for the next four months;

(b) if so, the maximum and minimum prices of the wheat fixed;

(c) the quantum of wheat to be sold in 1997-98, State-wise;

(d) whether this unprecedented 40% hike would increase the prices of essential commodities like Maida, Atta, Suji and Wheat;

(e) if so, whether almost all the parties have opposed this move; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir. The prices of wheat revised with effect from 4.2.97 are applicable till further orders.

(b) As per the revised rates the minimum price of wheat under open market sale scheme is Rs. 4900/- pmt and maximum is Rs. 7900/- pmt.

(c) The decision to continue or otherwise on the Open Market Sale Scheme (domestic) of wheat during 1997-98 will be taken after the ensuing procurement trend of wheat becomes available.

(d) Open sale of wheat is undertaken, *inter-alia*, to exert a sobering influence on the market prices without jeopardising the Public Distribution System. In the absence of open sale market prices of wheat/wheat products could have registered a higher rise.

(e) and (f) Representations have been received from a few State Governments, RFMS Associations, etc. opposing the upward price revision which are under consideration.

[English]

Oil Slick on the Andhra Coast

1565. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI :
DR. M. JAGANNATH :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an oil slick on Andhra Coast has been reported in January, 1997;

(b) if so, the causes thereof and the impact of oil slick on environment;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to compensate the fishermen of the Andhra Pradesh whose nets were damaged on account of the slick; and

(d) the measures taken to save the affected marine life?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the information of the Coast Guard Headquarters no impact on the environment due to oil slick on the east coast of Andhra Pradesh was reported during the period.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Milk Powder

1566. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bulk of India's milk powder is in a capacity to meet the international pesticide standards; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the per capita per day quantity of milk powder required for the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANS